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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

Germany (Federal Republic)

SUBJECT

Proposed New Uses for Poly-caprolactam

25X1X6

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1. The German (Federal Republic) chemical firm of Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik (BASF) is negotiating with a US firm for the licensing of poly-caprolactam production in the US. BASF proposes a joint venture arrangement under which they will furnish the know-how and the US firm will provide the production facilities. The US firm will have exclusive sales rights in the US but BASF is insisting that a certain portion of production be reserved for their exclusive marketing in Europe.
2. The most significant feature of the entire project is that BASF is urging the US firm not to manufacture poly-caprolactam fiber but rather to manufacture the solid form of the product. BASF officials state that there are already many acceptable synthetic fibers on the market. They believe that the greatest potential of poly-caprolactam results from characteristics which enable it to be moulded and/or machined. Machined or moulded, poly-caprolactam is according to BASF extremely well suited to the manufacture of machine parts such as gears and oilless bearings. There is no reason to doubt the Badische claims for this product.
3. Irrespective of the outcome of the BASF-US negotiations, German firms will soon be producing highly competitive machine parts from poly-caprolactam.
4. Note: Poly-caprolactam is the basic material from which the German fiber "Perlon" is made. "Perlon" is the trade name for a German synthetic fiber similar to and in some respects superior to nylon. "Nylon 6", a DuPont product, is almost identical with "Perlon".

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